What is claimed is:

1. An isolated fusion protein comprising a stress protein or a portion thereof and a hepatitis B virus (HBV) core antigen, wherein the fusion protein, when administered to an individual, induces or enhances an immune response against the HBV core antigen.

2. The fusion protein in claim 1, wherein the stress protein is a heat shock protein.

3. The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the stress protein is selected from the Hsp10, Hsp40, Hsp60, Hsp70, Hsp90, Hsp100-200, Hsp100, Lon, TF55, Hsp40, FKBPs, cyclophilin, Hsp20-30, ClpP, GrpE, ubiquitin, calnexin, or protein disulfide isomerase or small molecular weight family of stress proteins.

4. The fusion protein of claim 3, wherein the stress protein is *M. bovis BCG* hsp65.

5. The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the HBV core antigen comprises a fragment of the HBV core antigen lacking all or part of the C-terminal arginine-rich domain.

6. The fusion protein of claim 5, wherein the HBV core antigen fragment comprises amino acid 1 to 149 or amino acid 1 to 151 of the core antigen of the HBV adw strain.

7. A fusion protein comprising the sequence shown in any one of Figures 6, 8, 10 or 12.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the fusion protein of any one of claims 1 to 7.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

10. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that encodes the fusion protein of any of claims 1 to 7.

11. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence shown in any one of Figures 5, 7, 9 or 11.

12. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 10 or 11.

13. A retroviral vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 10 or 11.

14. A cell comprising the expression vector of claim 12.

15. A method of making a fusion protein according to any one of claims 1 to 7, the method comprising:

(a) providing the cell of claim 14, and

(b) culturing the cell under conditions that permit expression of the nucleic acid.

16. A method of inducing or enhancing an immune response against an HBV core antigen in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the fusion protein of any of claims 1 to 7.

17. A method of inducing or enhancing an immune response against an HBV core antigen in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 8.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

19. A method of inducing or enhancing an immune response against an HBV core antigen, the method comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the expression vector of claim 12.

20. A method of inducing or enhancing an immune response against an HBV core antigen, the method comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the expression vector of claim 13.